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A to Z

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# UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / August

## August 2019 News

**08/30/2019** - [UM Accountancy Programs Receive National Rankings](#) - Terri Herron

**08/29/2019** - [Flathead Bio Station Researcher Helps Uncover Ocean Iron Level Mystery](#) - Matthew Church

**08/28/2019** - [UM Online Public Health Program Ranks Among Most Affordable](#) - Tony Ward

**08/23/2019** - [UM Online Course Offers Worldwide English-Language Adventures](#) - Josh Rosenberger

**08/22/2019** - [UM-Affiliated Wings Over Water Program Wins Educational Innovation Award](#) - Erick Greene

**08/21/2019** - [100 Adventurous UM Students Form Bonds, Overcome Obstacles on Wilderness Trips](#) - Steve Thompson

**08/21/2019** - [UM Plans 50th Birthday Party for Grizzly Bear Statue](#) - Cary Shimek

**08/20/2019** - [UM President Highlights Progress During State of University Address](#) - Paula Short

**08/20/2019** - [Montana Researchers Publish 'Rethinking Resilience to Wildfire' in Nature Sustainability](#) - Philip Higuera

**08/19/2019** - [UM to Host Annual Student Employment Fair](#) - Emily Johnson

- 08/19/2019** - [UM Summer Enrollment Grows Again](#) - Dr. Grace Gardner
- 08/16/2019** - [UM Arts College Adds Journalism and New Name](#) - John DeBoer
- 08/15/2019** - [Princeton Review Names UM Among Best 385 Colleges for 2020](#) - Paula Short
- 08/13/2019** - [UM Dean Named National Collegiate Honors Council Fellow](#) - Timothy Nichols
- 08/12/2019** - [UM Dance Program Offers Creative Movement Classes for Children](#) - Laurel Sears
- 08/09/2019** - [Carroll College, UM Partner on Accelerated Graduate Degrees](#) - Sarah Lawlor
- 08/05/2019** - [UM to Kick Off New Academic Year at State of the University Address Aug. 20](#) - Paula Short
- 08/02/2019** - [Griz Welcome Events to Greet Arriving UM Students](#) - Hailey Michelson
- 08/01/2019** - [Search for the Next Great Montana Read Announced](#) - Sarah Aronson
- 07/25/2019** - [Scholar, Activist Cornel West to Begin 2019-20 UM President's Lecture Series](#) - UM Office of the President



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A to Z

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / [UM Accountancy Programs Receive National Rankings](#)

# UM Accountancy Programs Receive National Rankings

August 30, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana’s accounting programs are among the nation’s top 25 accounting schools.

The Public Accounting Report, a monthly periodical that covers the accounting profession, recently announced its 2019 rankings for the best undergraduate and graduate accounting programs in the country. UM’s undergraduate and graduate accounting programs both landed on the list.

Drawing on peer assessment surveys from 1,000 accounting faculty at 200 U.S. colleges and universities, UM’s undergraduate accounting program landed at No.12 and the University’s graduate degree in accounting



landed at No. 14 for institutions with less than 16 accounting faculty members.

In the western region, UM's undergraduate accounting program was ranked No. 21 and the master's program was ranked No. 20. The west region includes more than 200 undergraduate accounting programs and 130 accounting programs of all sizes in 15 western states.

"These rankings mean that faculty from across the country from all kinds of schools recognize our students' quality and success as well as the reputation of UM accounting faculty," said Terri Herron, UM accounting professor and KPMG faculty fellow, and director of UM's Master of Accountancy program. "We know our programs are rigorous, but this affirms that what we do in our corner of the Rockies really does shine wherever our students go."

Herron said the department's low faculty-to-student ratio and relationships with industry professionals bolsters student training in accounting and finance.

Housed in the Department of Accounting and Finance in UM's College of Business, UM offers an undergraduate business administration degree in accounting, a master's degree in accountancy and a certificate in accounting information systems. Students study government and nonprofit accounting, as well as taxation, auditing and accounting information systems. Graduates are prepared for positions in corporate, government or nonprofit accounting.

Graduate accounting students develop technical and leadership capability for advancement in the accounting profession and other related business careers, including CPA licensure. UM graduate accounting students have a 95% job placement rate upon graduating and are highly successful on the Certified Public Accountant exam.

UM's accounting degree pathways are separately accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate College of

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 10% increase in demand for accounting professionals in the near future.

“Our students are successful and have careers in a variety of fields,” Herron said. “Our curriculum equips them for their first job and the skills to advance to their 10th job.”

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / Flathead Bio Station Researcher Helps Uncover Ocean Iron Level Mystery

# Flathead Bio Station Researcher Helps Uncover Ocean Iron Level Mystery

August 29, 2019

### **POLSON**

Earth's oceans are filled with vast systems of rotating currents known as subtropical gyres. These regions occupy 40% of the Earth's surface and have long been considered remarkably stable biological deserts, with little variation in chemical makeup or the nutrients needed to sustain life.

However, there exists a strange anomaly in the North Pacific





Subtropical Gyre ecosystem that has puzzled scientists for years. In this region that occupies the Pacific Ocean between China and the United States, the chemistry changes periodically. There's a particularly notable fluctuation in the levels of phosphorus and iron, which affects the overall nutrient composition and ultimately impacts biological productivity.

In a new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a group of researchers uncovered the reason behind these variations in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre ecosystem. The group includes Matthew Church, a microbial ecologist with the University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station, as well as Oregon State University's Ricardo Letelier and the University of Hawaii's David Karl, among others.

"Variations in ocean climate appear to regulate iron supply, altering the types of plankton growing in these waters, which ultimately controls ocean nutrient concentrations," Church said. "My laboratory has worked on questions related to the role of plankton in controlling ocean nutrient availability for many years, and this study places much of that work in context. As a result of sustained, long-term observations, our work confirms how tightly coupled plankton biology is to the supply of nutrients, specifically iron, delivered from the atmosphere."

Using three decades of observational data from Station ALOHA, a six-mile area in the Pacific Ocean north of Hawaii dedicated to oceanographic research, the team discovered that the periodic shift in iron levels result from iron input from Asian dust, accounting for the chemical variances and providing varying amounts of nutrients to sustain life.

The key to the variance is the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, an ocean-atmosphere relationship that varies between weak and strong phases of atmospheric pressure in the northeast Pacific Ocean.

In years when the low pressure weakens in the northeast Pacific, winds from Asia become stronger and move in a more southern direction. This brings more dust from the Asian continent, "fertilizing" the ocean surrounding Station ALOHA. When the pressure strengthens, the opposite occurs.

The supply of nutrients is a fundamental regulator of ocean productivity, and phosphorous and iron are key components for life. Typically, the ocean's upper water column is fertilized by nutrient-rich water mixing up from the deep. This is a difficult process in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre ecosystem because the waters are very stratified and little mixing actually takes place.

When strong Asian winds bring in significant amounts of iron, organisms are allowed to grow and use phosphorus in the upper layers of the ocean. When Asian winds weaken and iron input is reduced, organisms are forced to return to a deep-water-mixing nutrient delivery system. This creates the periodic ebb and flow of iron and phosphorus levels in the North Pacific Gyre.

Church said the findings from this study emphasize the critical need to include both atmospheric and ocean circulation variability when forecasting how climate change might impact ocean ecosystems.

"It reaffirms the need to think about how tightly connected plankton biology is to changes in climate and ultimately also to changes in land use, which can directly impact dust supply to the sea," he said.

As Earth's temperature continues to warm, researchers expect to see long-term changes in wind patterns across the North Pacific. The evolution of land use and pollution driven by human activity in Asia also will affect the sources and magnitude of iron and other nutrients carried by wind across the ocean.

Further research is needed to better understand how these changes ultimately will impact ecosystems in this ocean region, as well as others around the world.

For more information about the study and Church’s research, visit <https://flbs.umt.edu/newflbs> or email [matt.church@flbs.umt.edu](mailto:matt.church@flbs.umt.edu).

###

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A to Z

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / UM Online Public Health Program Ranks Among Most Affordable

# UM Online Public Health Program Ranks Among Most Affordable

August 28, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana’s Master of Public Health online program has been named No. 3 on the Affordable Schools [list of 25 Best Affordable Master’s in Public Health Online Degrees 2019](#).

The rankings were based on average cost of attendance for in-state students and student-to-faculty ratios.

UM’s School of Public and Community Health Sciences is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health, and its graduate program is the first and only accredited MPH program in Montana. The online program, which consists of 42 total credits, recently was re-accredited for the maximum seven years through Dec. 31, 2024. Many of the program’s students are working professionals in Montana and the region, including employees from local/state/tribal health departments, nurses,



physicians and other health care employees.

The MPH program has a wide range of options and primarily focuses on the five core areas of public health: behavioral science/health education, environmental health, biostatistics, health services administration and epidemiology. Students also have numerous opportunities to become involved with faculty research projects.

UM's MPH program has expanded over the last couple of years to offer different academic opportunities, including a concentration in community health and prevention sciences, and it has partnered with other schools within the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, including the Schools of Pharmacy, Physical Therapy and Social Work. The MPH program also has partnered with units outside the college and now offers dual degrees with UM's Department of Public Administration and Policy and Department of Anthropology.

"Many of the existing and emerging public health issues today such as climate change, mental health and substance misuse, wildfires, vaccinations, etc. are complex problems and take multi-disciplinary teams to address these issues," said Tony Ward, chair and professor of the UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences. "We are proud that we can partner with other programs on campus to offer a top-notch yet affordable education and train public health professionals throughout our region to protect the health of our communities."

UM's online MPH program also has been [ranked highly for its affordability and value](#) with Online Masters, Top Masters in Public Health Degrees, Great Value Colleges, Affordable Colleges Online and Best Value Schools. In addition, it earned place [No. 9 in Best Online Master's in Public Health Programs](#) earlier this year.

Learn more about UM's online MPH program at <http://health.umt.edu/publichealth/>.

###

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| [Privacy Policy](#)

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A to Z

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / UM Online Course Offers Worldwide English-Language Adventures

# UM Online Course Offers Worldwide English-Language Adventures

August 23, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The English Language Institute at the University of Montana offers an online certificate program for those interested in teaching English to non-native speakers around the world.

The 12-week course is perfect for recent college graduates, current students, those interested in teaching abroad, international participants who meet proficiency requirements and current teachers looking to





meet the needs of diverse learners.

The ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Certificate Program runs from September to December. It includes 100 instructional hours, 20 hours of observation and instruction, mentorship by English-as-a-second-language teachers and help pursuing a career in the teaching profession.

“Students who have successfully completed this program have gone on to teach English in Russia, Japan, Spain and Ecuador,” said Josh Rosenberger, an instructor with the ESOL program. “There is no better way to experience a new culture, learn a new language and travel the world.”

He said a combination of this certificate and a bachelor’s degree will satisfy minimum qualifications to teach English at most independent language schools worldwide.

The certificate program costs \$1,300 and is conducted by UM’s School of Extended and Lifelong Learning. Register online at <http://bit.ly/2NqiWIL>. Email [joshua.rosenberger@mso.umt.edu](mailto:joshua.rosenberger@mso.umt.edu) with any questions. Visit <http://bit.ly/2Mz0xJS> for more information about UM’s English Language Institute.

###

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[University Relations](#)

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A to Z

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / UM-Affiliated Wings Over Water Program Wins Educational Innovation Award

# UM-Affiliated Wings Over Water Program Wins Educational Innovation Award

August 22, 2019

**MISSOULA** – Wings Over Water, a joint program of the University of Montana and the Montana Natural History Center, recently was awarded an Underwriters Laboratories Innovation Education Award. Open to nonprofits from across the U.S. and Canada, the award comes with a \$25,000 prize.



The Missoula program was one of six across the nation to earn these awards, which are presented with great fanfare by Underwriters Laboratories and the North American Association for Environmental Education. The ULIEA Award is very prestigious, meant to recognize the very best innovative E-STEM programs in North America. A video in which the honorees are surprised by their awards is online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4jitzY57xY>.

Wings Over Water, or WOW, is an “E-STEM” program about ospreys. (E-STEM stands for environmental science, technology and math.) The program provides a yearlong curriculum created for middle school and high school students.

“The program uses ospreys to provide teachers and students with a rich and integrative curriculum that blends biology, math, physics, technology, chemistry, environmental science, history and Native American perspectives in a really exciting way,” said UM Professor Erick Greene, who came up with the idea for WOW.





Greene and his research partners have conducted ecotoxicology research with ospreys for decades in conjunction with the clean-up of the Clark Fork River Superfund site. In the course of this research, they learned many things.

“First, people generally love ospreys,” Greene said. “Who can’t be impressed with a bird that can plummet out of the air at 80 mph to catch fish underwater? And secondly, we realized that about 90% of schools in Montana are within a couple of miles of an osprey nest. This got us thinking about how we might create a really meaningful integrative curriculum based around ospreys.”



The WOW program brings in some of the best middle school and high school teachers from all around the country for a weeklong workshop in Missoula. During the workshop, teachers are introduced to a wide variety of topics in the curriculum, mainly by letting them spend time with some of the top researchers in the world.

“The WOW program is sort of a bait and switch – it is certainly not a yearlong curriculum just about ospreys,” Greene said. “We use ospreys as a hook to engage students and teachers in a wide variety of topics. We have for broad modules in the program.”

For example, since ospreys obviously are great at flying, one theme is “how do things that are heavier than air stay up in the air?” This module introduces the math and physics of aerodynamics and flight. How do airplanes fly and why are they built the way they are? How do birds fly? How are different shapes of wings suited for different types of flight? For this module, teachers visit Northstar Jet at the Missoula airport, see planes up close and personal, and also visit the world-class Bird Flight Lab at UM’s Field Research Station.

“Teachers leave with a better understanding of these topics, and they can get their students to build their own research wind tunnels out of cardboard boxes, toilet paper tubes, a \$20 fan, and, of course, duct tape,” Greene said.

The intensive WOW workshop helps turn middle and high school students into researchers through their studies. The curriculum is appropriate for grades five and up.

“Most kids are very curious and inquisitive, and they are natural scientists,” Greene said. “Research shows, however, that many students, especially girls, stop being interested in science about fifth grade. So we focused our

efforts on these vulnerable grades where we lose a lot of students. We hope to keep students interested by providing material that connects them to things that are right out their front door, giving them the tools to grow as scientists. We also have a focus on rural and tribal students.”

He said WOW is a truly collaborative endeavor. It includes experts from Raptor View Research Institute, UM’s spectrUM program, the National Wildlife Federation, Five Valleys Audubon, the Montana Space Grant Consortium and NASA, Lockheed Martin Aerospace, Northstar Jet, the UM Bird Flight Lab and many others.

The \$25,000 award will be used to develop and improve WOW. Greene and Dr. Jenéle Dowling, program manager of WOW with the Montana Natural History Center, also recently met with the other 2019 winners from across North America to discuss environmental STEM education, as well as social impact projects that engage youth, inspire leadership and drive sustainable change.

###

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# UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / 100 Adventurous UM Students Form Bonds, Overcome Obstacles on Wilderness Trips

## 100 Adventurous UM Students Form Bonds, Overcome Obstacles on Wilderness Trips

August 21, 2019





#### UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – Backpacks, boots, fly rods and smiles were all in abundance as more than 100 University of Montana students returned to campus Tuesday evening after participating in four days of wilderness adventures through UM's Freshman Wilderness Experience.



Groups of incoming students, each led by two trained student leaders, traversed various wilderness areas around the state, successfully navigating the challenges created by rugged terrain and Montana weather. Divided into small groups, they spent four days and three nights either canoeing the Missouri River or backpacking through the Pintlers, the Bitterroots or the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The FWE is open to all incoming freshmen at UM, regardless if they have been on a multi-day wilderness trip or have ever been camping before.

"The trips allow incoming students to deepen their bonds with one another while instilling a sense of confidence that helps them feel more comfortable as they approach the unknowns of college," said Steve Thompson, UM Campus Recreation director. "The wilderness setting serves an amazing venue to integrate the new students into the UM community."

Now in its seventh year, the Freshmen Wilderness Experience is sponsored by Campus Recreation's Outdoor Program and The Wilderness Institute in UM's W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation.



One of the highlights of the FWE is the growing involvement of student alumni in the program, said Elizabeth Fricke, senior associate director of UM's Outdoor Programs.

"Each year more and more former FWE participants are returning to work as organizing staff and guides for the trips," she said. "By fostering peer networks and establishing a sense of engagement with the UM campus, Missoula and the surrounding wilderness areas, students are more likely to stay in school and persist toward graduation."

The retention rate for FWE participants in 2017 was 80.4%, compared to 64.6% for students who did not participate in FWE.

For more information about FWE, Campus Recreation Outdoor Programs or the Wilderness Institute, call Fricke or 406-243-5172 or Thompson at 406-243-5269.

###

**Contact:** Steve Thompson, director, Campus Recreation , 406-243-5269, ; Elizabeth Fricke, senior assistant director, Campus Recreation Outdoor Program, 406-243-5172, .



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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / [UM Plans 50th Birthday Party for Grizzly Bear Statue](#)

# UM Plans 50th Birthday Party for Grizzly Bear Statue

August 21, 2019

**MISSOULA** – Thousands have taken their picture with the University of Montana’s Grizzly Bear statue, and on Tuesday, Aug. 27, campus will celebrate the 50th birthday of this iconic symbol of UM.

The party will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. near the statue on the UM Oval. Birthday cake will be served, the UM Marching Band will play “Happy Birthday” at noon, and UM President Seth Bodnar will attend the festivities

– along with mascot Monte.

UM will display historic pictures of the statue's installation, and art history Professor H. Rafael Chacón will be available to answer questions the about the bear and its renowned sculptor Rudy Autio (1926-2007), who founded UM's ceramics division and chaired the School of Art from 1957 to 1985. Members of Autio's family are expected to attend the event.

UM's 3-ton Grizzly Bear statue was commissioned by former UM President Robert T. Pantzer, who led UM from 1966 to 1973. According to archived UM news releases, the statue arrived on campus on Aug. 27, 1969.

Before crafting the bear, Autio visited zoos, studied photographs and relied heavily on paintings of grizzlies by legendary Montana artist Charles M. Russell. Autio created several plaster-silica models of the bear at his home in Missoula. University alumni Brian Persha and John Murphy assisted Autio in making early models of the grizzly.

Bronze for the statue was donated by the Northern Pacific Railway Co. and the Pacific Hide & Fur Depot in Missoula. The final prototype was shipped to San Francisco, where the bronze version of the statue was completed by the San Francisco Art Foundry, then driven to Missoula.

The cost of casting and shipping the bear was estimated to be about \$12,000, which was financed entirely from private contributions. Significant donations were received from area businesses, the UM Alumni Association and Joseph Thiebes, a Great Falls alumnus and president of Pacific Hide and Fur Depot. The picturesque bear found its



permanent home on a concrete podium with Main Hall as a backdrop.

Autio went on to mold the UM ceramics program into one of the best in the nation. His works abound on campus, as well as in UM's Montana Museum of Art and Culture Permanent Collection.

"Autio's statue has guarded the Oval for five decades," President Bodnar said. "He's a tough old bear who represents our undaunted Griz spirit. This will be a fun milestone to celebrate."

###

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / UM President Highlights Progress During State of University Address

# UM President Highlights Progress During State of University Address

August 20, 2019

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana President Seth Bodnar said campus has worked diligently during the past year to move UM from a position of uncertainty to stability as it prepares for future growth.

UM's 19th president made his remarks Tuesday during his second State of the



## University address in

the Montana Theatre, sharing the stage with UM Provost Jon Harbor and shared governance leaders. This annual event brings faculty and staff together to learn about UM highlights, challenges and goals as campus prepares to launch the academic year.

“Over the course of the past year, we’ve made steady, consistent headway in addressing our challenges,” Bodnar said. “We’ve tackled head on some longstanding problems, we’ve reduced our structural budget deficit by over 60%, and we’ve cleared the way for new momentum.”

He mentioned many highlights, starting with UM student Dillon Demontiney, who transferred to UM from Stone Child Tribal College on the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation, struggled for a time on campus before receiving the help he needed, and then graduated in May in pre-med – the first in his family to finish college.

“We articulated last year a key priority: to place student success at the center of all we do,” Bodnar said.

Other highlights the president mentioned include:

- UM hired a vice president for student success, Sarah Swager, to implement a new orientation experience for students and build programs focused on the holistic success of students.
- Campus launched the Big Sky Experience for new students, allowing them to form bonds to aid retention as they work together for three days in small groups to accomplish positive goals for the community and campus.
- The University is hiring additional professional advisers while redesigning the advising experience. Bodnar said UM has set ambitious goals to raise first-year retention above 80% in the next few years and the six-year graduation rate to 60%.
- UM launched the Teaching Excellence Initiative to improve campus instruction, which has drawn interest from faculty members across all disciplines.
- Campus researchers set a record of \$90.6 million in research expenditures during the past year. Bodnar said the new, ambitious goal is \$100 million in such expenditures, which would help make UM eligible to achieve the highest level of Carnegie classification, a Research Very High Activity or R1 institution.
- UM researchers across disciplines published more than 800 papers. Of these, 28 were published in the world’s top three science journals, more than any other Big Sky Conference university.
- The University launched the [SEA Change Initiative](#) and revamped the [Woman’s Leadership Initiative](#) to empower women and accelerate them with lives of impact.
- Campus hired Tribal Outreach Specialist Brad Hall to help recruit a more diverse student body and is hiring a new director of diversity, equity and inclusion to boost UM’s climate of inclusion.
- UM had 584 students participate in an internship last year, earning \$615,000 in wages, with 33 percent of those students being offered employment at their internship sites. In addition, 3,132 students contributed 103,934 hours of community service last year through 115 community partner organizations, generating \$2.6 million in

economic impact.

- Bodnar said Campaign Montana is expected to reach and potentially surpass its \$400 million goal, making it UM's most successful fundraising effort.

The president said UM experienced growing summer semester enrollment this year, and the University has implemented a comprehensive new strategic enrollment plan designed to attract, recruit, admit and retain a growing number of students. Recruitment infrastructure has been fixed and enhanced, communication flows with prospective students have been improved and an enhanced University brand and message now targets everyone from middle and high school students to parents, guidance counselors, teachers and coaches.

Bodnar said data show the value of a college education has never been greater, but people still question whether higher education is worth the cost.

"I can confidently claim that higher education is more important than it's ever been, and this country needs institutions like UM tackle head-on the societal challenges we face," he said. "This moment calls for us to expand our conception of what a university can and should be."

Bodnar challenged his UM audience to "rise to the challenges we see in front of us and to answer our society's needs" and to "shape a University of Montana that is not just the flagship university of this great state, but a flagship for American's future – an institution that creates inclusive prosperity and sustains democracy."

###

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A to Z



my.umt.edu

## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / Montana Researchers Publish 'Rethinking Resilience to Wildfire' in Nature Sustainability

# Montana Researchers Publish 'Rethinking Resilience to Wildfire' in Nature Sustainability

August 20, 2019

UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – Wildfires in the West are becoming inevitable, and communities that rethink what it means to live with them will fare better than those that simply rebuild after they burn.

So says a new paper published in Nature Sustainability, research stemming from a collaboration among scientists from the University of Montana's W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, Montana State University, the U.S. Forest Service and other institutions across North America.

The paper, published Aug.19, outlines different ways in which communities can support social and ecological resilience in Western landscapes. The researchers argue that communities should look beyond basic resilience – bouncing back to pre-fire conditions following a wildfire – and consider how to adapt or even transform to better co-

exist with wildfire in the future. The authors also provide examples of communities that have successfully done so in recent years.

"The key point of our paper is that current approaches to responding to wildfire are not working, especially as fire seasons are getting warmer and longer," said lead author Dave McWethy, assistant professor of earth sciences at Montana State University. "In many fire-susceptible landscapes, rebuilding after wildfire leaves communities in a constant state of vulnerability."

The paper is the result of an interdisciplinary collaboration of ecologists and social scientists supported by a 2017 grant from the federal Joint Fire Science Program, addressing the challenges communities and land managers face when responding to wildfire by identifying actions that promote both social and ecological resilience. The core research team includes UM's Philip Higuera, Alex Metcalf and Libby Metcalf; MSU's McWethy; and U.S. Forest Service scientist Carol Miller.



"There are increasing efforts to promote 'resilience to wildfire' by managers, policy makers and the public at large, from the national level down to individual cities like Missoula," said Higuera, UM associate professor of fire ecology. "But as extreme fire seasons become increasingly common, it's getting more challenging to see exactly what this resilience might look like, particularly since we know fire is an important component of Western landscapes that can't just be excluded. Our paper shows how resilience can take on a different look and feel in different communities and environments."

The authors cite recent wildfire events as reasons why a new approach is needed: the 2017 fire season was the most expensive ever for the U.S. government at \$2.9 billion, and California saw both its largest and most deadly fires in history in 2018.

The authors argue that learning to better live with wildfire starts with acknowledging that fire is inevitable in Western North American landscapes. Fire was historically a critical feature shaping those landscapes, and efforts to control and stop fires have had the unintended consequence of making communities more vulnerable to destructive burns, especially as the climate becomes increasingly warm and dry, the researchers write.

The paper uses Montecito, California, as one of its examples. After a series of severe fires in the 1960s, the Montecito Fire Protection District took steps toward what the researchers call "adaptive resilience." This included creating defensible space around homes (a space without woody fuels), "hardening" homes by using fire-resistant building materials, reducing fuels across the larger landscape through prescribed fire and other treatments, and

implementing detailed fire planning and response outreach programs. The authors argue that those practices paid off more than four decades later, substantially reducing the damage caused to homes in Montecito by the Thomas Fire in 2017.

Similar practices could be tailored to fit varying ecosystems and communities, making adaptive and transformative resilience more widespread, the researchers said.

"It is important to remember that there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach for living with wildfire," said Alex Metcalf, UM assistant professor of human dimensions. "In some places, it will make sense to continue defending structures and other human values. Elsewhere, fighting wildfire will be futile given warming patterns, so people must adapt. In other instances, people will have to entirely re-envision development patterns given the realities of wildfire."

This piece follows the publication of [another paper](#) in May by the same core team from UM, MSU and the USFS in the journal Bioscience. That paper outlined a framework for natural resource managers and communities to use when incorporating social and biophysical considerations into resilience thinking.

In addition to Higuera and Metcalf, UM co-authors include Libby Metcalf and Cara Nelson. Other co-authors include researchers from MSU, the University of Colorado-Boulder, Oregon State University, University of Washington, Colorado State University, the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, The Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, University of Colorado-Denver, Middle Path EcoSolutions, University of Lethbridge, Cornell University, University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Idaho.

The paper, "Rethinking resilience to wildfire," is available online at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-019-0353-8>.

###

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A to Z

my.umt.edu

## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / UM to Host Annual Student Employment Fair

# UM to Host Annual Student Employment Fair

August 19, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana’s Office of Experiential Learning & Career Success will host its annual Student Employment Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5, in the University Center Ballroom.

The fair is open to all organizations or departments on- and off-campus that need college students for part-time positions during the academic year. The event is free for UM students.

Registered employers will receive a career fair booth, lunch and free parking. The Office of Experiential Learning & Career Success will have staff on hand to help employers with their fair materials and assist with setup. Interested employers can register on [Handshake](#). The fair is free for on-campus organizations. Lunch tickets are available for \$15.

To see a list of attending employers, visit UM’s Career Services website at <http://bit.ly/2KVsetd>.

###

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / [UM Summer Enrollment Grows Again](#)

# UM Summer Enrollment Grows Again

August 19, 2019

**MISSOULA** – Summer semester enrollment at the University of Montana experienced solid growth for the second year in a row, with over 3,000 students taking UM courses. This represents about a 3% increase from the previous summer, and it's the highest summer enrollment since 2014.

Figures won't be finalized until the last week of August, but



3,025 students have paid for their summer courses, which compares to 2,945 a year ago. UM officials expect the final tally to rise as more students complete their payments.

In addition to a higher summer headcount, more UM students graduated this summer. A year ago, the University awarded 422 degrees, and that jumped to 489 degree candidates this year.

“Summer session helps students cross the finish line so they don’t have to complete in the fall,” UM Provost Jon Harbor said. “This reduces their debt and moves them on to their careers sooner. We are working hard to identify courses students need to graduate in the summer to better serve our students.”

The summer enrollment bump at UM’s two-year Missoula College was even more pronounced, with the student headcount swelling 5% compared to last summer. At this time, 274 students have paid for their summer courses at MC compared to 259 a year ago.

Dr. Grace Gardner, director of UM Summer, said the University is expanding its summer semester options by offering additional classes, enhancing tutoring and discounting on-campus housing for students. For next summer, UM is planning to provide more summer institute programs for high school students as well as an early start option for first-year students.

“We are thrilled that more of our students are taking advantage of the opportunity to take classes during our beautiful Missoula summers,” Gardner said. “Summer courses can help students shorten their time to graduation, complete general education requirements, learn in accelerated course formats and receive more individualized attention in smaller classes.”

For more information visit <http://www.umt.edu/summer>, call Gardner at 406-243-5658 or email [grace.gardner@mso.umt.edu](mailto:grace.gardner@mso.umt.edu).

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A to Z

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / UM Arts College Adds Journalism and New Name

# UM Arts College Adds Journalism and New Name

August 16, 2019

**MISSOULA** – Strategic improvements at the University of Montana have led to a new name and academic offerings for its arts and media college.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts has a new moniker: the College of the Arts and Media.

John DeBoer, interim dean of the college, said faculty members voted to change the name with the addition of the



School of Journalism into the college's academic family. The J-school joins the schools of art, media arts, music, and theater and dance.

"The addition of journalism to our portfolio really strengthens the intersection of artistry, inquiry and the free expression of ideas that is central to the mission the University of Montana," DeBoer said. "This is an exciting time for our college and our creative, adventurous students."



There is more than a new college name. The School of Art and the School of Media Arts have merged. The new unit is called the School of Visual and Media Arts.

"The combined strength of both faculties creates one of the largest academic units on campus," said Kevin Bell, director of the school. "This becomes the only school with two fully online undergraduate degrees at UM. These degrees give studio arts students and media arts students a diverse array of skills important to a range of careers, coupling material-based processes – like drawing, photography and painting – with digital technology and applied art courses. These include illustration, video, web and digital design."

DeBoer said this innovative curriculum preps graduates for the careers of tomorrow as visual communication becomes increasingly important and ubiquitous.

He said the college's interdisciplinary offerings will expand as well. After years of work by faculty members, the School of Music and School of Theatre and Dance are launching an option in musical theatre performance. This new program integrates aspects of existing undergraduate degrees in theatre, dance and vocal performance.

"This is the first Musical Theatre Program in Montana and one of the few serving students in the Mountain West," DeBoer said.



Besides its academic offerings, the College of the Arts and Media houses three popular public service units: the Montana Repertory Theatre (the Rep), the Montana Museum of Art and Culture, and the Montana Media Lab.

The Rep brought 12 new plays to Montana this year, as well as contemporary stories performed across Missoula in cars, hotel rooms and on stages. Each featured UM students, alumni and professionals from across the country. The Rep will open its 2019-20 season with the world premiere of Emily Feldman's "Go. Please. Go" in the Masquer Theatre.

MMAC welcomed new museum director Rafael Chacón in January. Dr. Chacón, who has taught art history and criticism at UM for 25 years, is working to put more of the state's oldest and largest collection of publicly held art on view while develop exciting interdisciplinary programming that places the museum at the academic core of the University. The museum will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2020.

The J-school's new Montana Media Lab launched its first programs this summer with a full slate of hands-on media workshops for all skill levels taught by industry experts. This included intensive training in podcasting, video, mobile media, writing and social media, including outreach in media literacy and digital storytelling to rural and Native American youth in schools across Montana.

The College of the Arts and Media will offer many exciting cultural events during fall semester, including:

- "Go. Please. Go." by Emily Feldman
- "Translating Place: Open AIR Artist-in-Residence Exhibition"
- BLOCK-Party Custom Woodblock T-Shirt Printing Fundraiser
- Chamber Music Montana in Chamber Music Under the M
- Opening Reception for Jack Franjevic: "Montana Modernist"
- Visiting Artist Reinaldo Gil Zambrano
- Matt Hamon: "Landscapes and Narrative"
- PRISM! featuring jazz, choirs, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and more.
- "The Wolves" by Sarah DeLappe
- Opera Gala Fundraiser and Silent Auction
- Annual T. Anthony Pollner Lecture featuring Leah Sottile

More information can be found at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/Events>.

###

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A to Z

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / Princeton Review Names UM Among Best 385 Colleges for 2020

# Princeton Review Names UM Among Best 385 Colleges for 2020

August 16, 2019



UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana recently was named to the Princeton Review's 2020 list of top four-year colleges and universities in North America.

"The Best 385 Colleges: 2020 Edition" was released this month. Rankings in the 2020 edition are based on online surveys of more than 140,000 students at colleges that appeared in the book the previous three years. The survey asked students more than 80 questions about their school's academics, administration and student body.

In addition to making "The Best 385 Colleges" list, UM also was selected for the western division of the Princeton Review's "Best Regional Colleges."

Published since 1992, the annual Princeton Review ranking includes detailed profiles of each school and ratings in a variety of areas, such as academics, campus life, tuition and financial aid.

To read more about how UM ranked this year, visit <https://www.princetonreview.com/college/university-montana-1023574>.

###

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A to Z

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / UM Dean Named National Collegiate Honors Council Fellow

# UM Dean Named National Collegiate Honors Council Fellow

August 13, 2019

**MISSOULA** – Dr. Timothy Nichols, the new dean of the Davidson Honors College at the University of Montana, has been named a 2019 Fellow of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

The prestigious honor recognizes his contributions to the national NCHC organization, as well as his distinguished career of teaching, learning, scholarship and leadership.

Before joining UM earlier this year, Nichols already had established an impressive career in honors education, serving as dean of the Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College at South Dakota State University from 2008 to 2016.

“This recognition made me reflect on many great memories of wonderful work with honors colleagues and students all across the



country over the years,” Nichols said. “My hope is that having an NCHC Fellow at UM will shine a national spotlight on the exemplary work being done by the passionate and talented faculty, staff and students of the Davidson Honors College. I’m deeply grateful for this recognition.”

The Davidson Honors College at UM attracts the best students from around the state, country and world. The college develops engaged global citizens and professionals who excel in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, problem solving, ethical reasoning and civic engagement.

NCHC Executive Director Beth Rathe said Fellows are selected by rigorous peer review after careful consideration of state, regional and national honors leadership. Fellows also generously participate in honors conferences, offer scholarly contributions to honors education, are involved in local and national honors professional development activities, and exhibit outstanding honors teaching abilities. They also consult and offer their services to improve honors programming at various institutions, as well as other considerations.

“We single out individuals who have made a significant difference in the reputation and influence of NCHC and honors education on all of our campuses,” Rathe said.

When nominating Nichols to become a Fellow, current Fishback Honors College Dean Rebecca Bott-Knutson wrote, “One of Dr. Nichols’ best qualities is that he truly cares about his students and will go above and beyond what is required of him to help students in any way he possibly can. Ask anyone on campus or any of the graduates who have had contact with Dr. Nichols over the years.

“I’m willing to bet each of them will have a story of how Tim Nichols made a positive difference for them, bringing meaning to people’s work, studies and lives – all the while building an army of talent to advance honors education.”

###

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A to Z



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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / UM Dance Program Offers Creative Movement Classes for Children

# UM Dance Program Offers Creative Movement Classes for Children

August 12, 2019

**MISSOULA** – Every fall and spring, the University of Montana Dance Program offers creative movement dance classes for children age 3 and a half to 10. Registration is now open for classes this fall.

Creative movement provides opportunities for children to express their inherent creativity through their bodies. Based on the premise that children love to move, the classes capitalize on children's natural movement forms: jumping, twisting, spinning and leaping.

The classes take place on UM's main campus in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center on Thursdays during the fall session, which runs Sept. 5 to Nov 21. Class times are based on age: 3:30-4 p.m. for ages 3 and a half to 4, 4:15-5 p.m. for ages



5 to 6, and 5:15-6 p.m. for ages 7 to 10.

Children also are exposed to the elements of dance and basic movement patterns. The UM Children's Dance program serves as an excellent introduction to dance for all children. For the 7- to 10-year-olds, dancers are introduced to dance techniques and create their own original choreography.

All classes are accompanied by live piano and drums, and UM School of Theatre and Dance students earn credit for participating as student teachers. With student teachers in each class, children get personal attention and the opportunity to learn from various teaching styles.

Laurel Sears, an adjunct assistant professor of dance, said children – even those who may never have danced formally before – benefit from the course in multiple ways.

“Parents tell me all the time how much their kids reenact what they learned in the class at home,” Sears said. “One student themed her whole fifth birthday party around her class!”

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2An3xRZ>.

###

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A to Z

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / Carroll College, UM Partner on Accelerated Graduate Degrees

# Carroll College, UM Partner on Accelerated Graduate Degrees

August 09, 2019

**HELENA** – The University of Montana and Carroll College have launched two partnerships to help students obtain graduate degrees in less time and at a lower cost than traditional paths. The new public-private partnerships are a first for both institutions.

The first collaboration



has Carroll College partnering with UM's Alexander Blewett III School of Law to offer

its first-ever "3+3" dual-degree program. Students in the program attend Carroll College for three years and then matriculate to the Missoula law school to complete their three-year law degree.

The 3+3 Program enables Carroll College students to complete both a baccalaureate degree and Juris Doctorate in six years rather than the typical seven years. Through this program, Carroll will be able to recruit and retain talented undergraduate students interested in a career in law, and it will help the UM recruit well-qualified and motivated Carroll students.

"This new program will be a win-win for both UM and Carroll," School of Law Dean Paul Kirgis said. "We think this demonstrates how public and private institutions can work together to better serve our students and meet the legal needs of our state."

The second collaboration involves the School of Law's Master of Public Administration Program, which plans to partner with Carroll College's Department of Political Science to offer the first-ever "4+1" program in Montana. The program will allow participating students to complete their bachelor and MPA degrees in five years instead of the traditional six or more.

"Our MPA degree is the only accredited program in the state," said Sara Rinfret, director of the UM program. "Our department provides nationally ranked curriculum and innovation in online, in-person and hybrid course delivery. This partnership will create a lot of flexibility for the contemporary student."

With national student loan debt regularly making headlines, these new programs are a proactive step to help students obtain graduate degrees with less financial burden, maintain quality and serve the state's economic needs in law, public policy and public administration. Carroll College President John Cech said it's a model partnership for our state because it seeks to provide a quicker path to workforce success.

"Carroll College appreciates its relationship with the Montana University System, and it is always looking for ways to

make higher education more affordable for our students,” Cech said. “We are proud of these innovative public-private partnerships, which allow our students to save time and money while completing their graduate degrees. We are also pleased that the University of Montana recognizes the caliber of student that Carroll attracts and are eager to have them be part of their graduate programs. This is a unique and first-of-its-kind partnership for both Carroll and UM.”

###

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / UM to Kick Off New Academic Year at State of the University Address Aug. 20

# UM to Kick Off New Academic Year at State of the University Address Aug. 20

August 05, 2019

UM News Service

**MISSOULA** – University of Montana President Seth Bodnar, Provost Jon Harbor, UM’s academic deans and shared governance leaders will host the annual State of the University Address at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, in the Montana Theatre of UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

The University community, members of the public and the media are invited to attend. Coffee and tea will be available in the lobby prior to the event.

The address will be streamed live online at <https://www.mcat.org/watch-now/local-live/>.

“The State of the University Address is a chance for our Griz family to gather and celebrate as we look toward a new academic year,” Bodnar said. “Join us as we honor our new and recently tenured and promoted faculty and embark on the shared work of the coming year.”



###

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / Griz Welcome Events to Greet Arriving UM Students

# Griz Welcome Events to Greet Arriving UM Students

August 02, 2019



**MISSOULA** – The University of Montana and the Missoula community will welcome students arriving for fall semester with a full slate of Griz Welcome events from Saturday, Aug. 17, to Friday, Aug. 30.

Griz Welcome helps students feel comfortable, included and ready to study.

“As a student, there’s nothing like the excitement – and the stress – of coming back to campus in the fall,” said UM sophomore Morgan Starnes. “Having activities that welcome students back really makes the beginning of each school year fun, as well as help release some of the stress that comes with it.”

Volunteers will help students move into their new home away from home on Saturday, Aug. 17. Among the many Griz Welcome highlights are Convocation on Monday, Aug. 26, and a Welcome Feast lunch Friday, Aug. 30.

While many of the activities are designed for new students, all Grizzlies are encouraged to attend.

“Griz Welcome is a great way to help students of every class and field of study meet new people and find a sense of community with their peers,” Starnes said.

A schedule follows.

#### **Saturday, Aug. 17**

- Move-in Day, residence halls.
- Trivia Night, 8-10 p.m., University Center Commons.

#### **Sunday, Aug. 18**

- Grocery Bingo, 8-10 p.m., UC Commons.

#### **Monday, Aug. 19**

- Griz “Minute to Win it,” 8-10 p.m., UC Ballroom.

#### **Tuesday, Aug. 20**

- Glow-in-the-Dark Capture the Flag, 8-10 p.m., Oval.

#### **Wednesday, Aug. 21**

- Movie on the Oval, 9:30-11:30 p.m., Oval.

#### **Thursday, Aug. 22**

- Silent Disco, 8:30-11 p.m., Oval.

#### **Friday, Aug. 23**

- Great Griz Encounter, Movie Night, 5-10 p.m., Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

### **Saturday, Aug. 24**

- Rafting Trip, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Alberton Gorge, Clark Fork River
- Laser Tag, 7-10 p.m., UC South Ballroom.

### **Sunday, Aug. 25**

- Rafting Trip, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Alberton Gorge, Clark Fork River
- Pool Party, 7-9 p.m., Splash Montana.

### **Monday, Aug. 26**

- Shakespeare in the Parks, 6-8 p.m., Oval.
- Convocation, 8-9 p.m., Oval.

### **Tuesday, Aug. 27**

- Shakespeare in the Parks, 6-8 p.m., Oval.

### **Wednesday, Aug. 28**

- Learn S'More About Greek Life, 7-9 p.m., Payne Family Native American Center Firepit.

### **Thursday, Aug. 29**

- Rainbow Welcome, 4-6 p.m., Oval.
- Football 101, 6:15-7:15 p.m., Washington-Grizzly Stadium.
- Shakewell Concert, 8-10 p.m., Oval.

### **Friday, Aug. 30**

- Welcome Feast, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Oval.

For more information on Griz Welcome activities, visit <https://www.umt.edu/grizwelcome/>.

###

**Contact:** Hailey Michelson, Griz Welcome committee co-chair, 406-243-5776, [hailey.michelson@mso.umt.edu](mailto:hailey.michelson@mso.umt.edu);  
Melissa Neidigh, Griz Welcome committee co-chair, 406-243-2611, [melissa.neidigh@umontana.edu](mailto:melissa.neidigh@umontana.edu).



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A to Z

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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / Search for the Next Great Montana Read Announced

# Search for the Next Great Montana Read Announced

August 01, 2019

**MISSOULA** – The search is beginning for the next Great Montana Read. This year, MontanaPBS and Montana Public Radio are asking readers to vote for their favorite book of nonfiction prose.

Sarah Aronson, host of Montana Public Radio's "The Write Question" said a panel of seven Montana literary experts chose from a number of books for voters to consider.

"We're excited that the whole state will begin conversations around their favorite Montana books," Aronson said. "The Great Montana Read is an exciting collaboration, encouraging conversation and celebration around the Treasure State's rich literary tradition."

The 10 books nominated by the experts are:

- "Winter" by Rick Bass
- "All But the Waltz" by Mary Clearman Blew
- "Breaking Clean" by Judy Blunt

- “Counting Coup” by Larry Colton
- “This House of Sky” by Ivan Doig
- “Indian Creek Chronicles” by Pete Fromm
- “Last Best Place” by Editors William Kittredge and Annick Smith
- “Young Men and Fire” by Normal Maclean
- “Homestead” by Annick Smith
- “Killing Custer” by James Welch (editor Paul Stekler)

Starting in September, each book will be profiled on-air, on station websites and on social media. Aronson will write and host the video segments. Montanans will vote for their favorite online at

<https://www.montanapbs.org/events/greatmontanaread/>.

Last year, the Great Montana Read asked voters to pick their favorite book of fiction. “Perma Red” by author and University of Montana Professor Debra Magpie Earling was voted the No. 1 book, followed by “A River Runs Through It” by Norman Maclean and “This House of Sky” by Ivan Doig. More than 2,500 votes were cast on the MontanaPBS website.

Partners for the Great Montana Read include the Montana Library Association, Humanities Montana, UM, the UM Mansfield Library, the UM Creative Writing Department, Yellowstone Public Radio, Montana State University Library, MontanaPBS and Montana Public Radio.

MontanaPBS (KUFM-TV in Missoula, KUSM-TV in Bozeman, KUKL-TV in Kalispell, KBGS-TV in Billings, KUGF-TV in Great Falls and KUHM-TV in Helena) is a service of UM and Montana State University. For more information visit <https://www.montanapbs.org/>.

###

**Contact:** Sarah Aronson, “The Write Question” host, 406-243-4931, [thewritequestion@mtpr.net](mailto:thewritequestion@mtpr.net); Ray Ekness, Broadcast Media Center director, 406-243-4154, [ray.ekness@umontana.edu](mailto:ray.ekness@umontana.edu).



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## UM News

[UM](#) / [News](#) / [2019](#) / [August](#) / Scholar, Activist Cornel West to Begin 2019-20 UM President's Lecture Series

# Scholar, Activist Cornel West to Begin 2019-20 UM President's Lecture Series

August 01, 2019

### MISSOULA

philosopher, theologian, social justice activist  
and one of the country's leading scholars on

America," the first lecture of the University of  
Montana's 2019-20 President's Lecture Series.

West will present his lecture at 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Aug. 28, at The Wilma in  
downtown Missoula. The event is free and open  
to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

A prominent democratic intellectual emphasizing  
the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, West is the  
New York Times best selling author of more



than 20 books, including notable classics such as “Democracy Matters,” “Race Matters” and his memoir, “Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud.”

At Harvard University, he serves as the Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy. He also has taught at Princeton, Union Theological Seminary, Yale and the University of Paris.

The son of a Baptist minister, West graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in three years and obtained his master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy from Princeton. He is a frequent guest on “Real Time with Bill Maher,” CNN, C-Span and Democracy Now!

Additionally, West has produced three spoken word albums and considers his role in the public to bear witness to love and justice.

The President's Lecture Series at UM consists of several talks throughout the academic year on vital topics by distinguished guest speakers. For more information call 406-243-2311 or email [thepresident@umontana.edu](mailto:thepresident@umontana.edu).

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**Contact:** UM Office of the President, 406-243-2311, [thepresident@umontana.edu](mailto:thepresident@umontana.edu).





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